

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 12 and 14-21 are pending in this application, Claims 1-11 and 13 having previously been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; Claims 20 and 21 having been added; and Claims 12, 14, and 15 having been presently amended. Support for amended Claims 12, 14, and 15 can be found, for example, in the original claims, drawings, and specification as originally filed.¹ No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 12 and 14-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,859,535; hereinafter “Tatebayashi”) and further in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,226,237; hereinafter “Chan”).

In response to the rejection of Claims 12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Chan, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 12 recites novel features clearly not taught nor rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 12 is directed to a general purpose computer including, *inter alia*:

...a power controller configured to supply power to said general-purpose computer, wherein said power controller supplies power to said decoding mechanism and said reproduction mechanism even if power of said central processing unit is turned off, and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from said central processing unit when said general-purpose computer is in an active state and said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data ***based on commands from an external storage card control mechanism integrally arranged on said case of said general-purpose computer,***

¹ See page 19, line 17 to page 23, line 2 of the specification and Figures 1-7.

without control of a central processing unit, when said general-purpose computer is in an inactive state....

By way of background, in a non-limiting embodiment of Applicants' invention, if the power switch is turned off, and therefore the CPU 51 is not executing the operating system (OS) 54E, the I/O interface 69 executes a jog dial monitor program 70E, so that pressing the jog dial 4 in the power saving state or when the power to the personal computer 1 is off makes the same start the processing of a preset predetermined software program or script file.² Next, on the basis of a signal inputted from the jog lever 12-2, the memory card driver 151-2 reads music data from the memory card 21-2, decodes the read music data, and supplies the decoded music data to the sound controller 64.³

Page 8 of the outstanding Office Action states that Tatebayashi at column 8, lines 44-51 describes "that in an inactive state in which no electric power is supplied to a said general-purpose computer, an external storage card control mechanism reads copyrighted data from said external storage card." However, Tatebayashi fails to teach or suggest that: 1) when said general-purpose computer is in an *active* state, the loading mechanism is configured to read decoded data based on commands from the *central processing unit* and 2) when said general-purpose computer is in an *inactive* state, the loading mechanism is configured to read decoded data based on commands from an external storage card control mechanism *integrally arranged on the case of the general-purpose computer*, without control of the central processing unit, as in Applicants' independent Claim 12.

In Tatebayashi, the memory card 200 is written to by a memory card writer 300 in the personal computer 500, which is controlled by a processor in the personal computer when the processor is in an active state. When the processor is turned off, i.e. in an inactive state, Tatebayashi does not describe that data on the memory card 200 is read based on commands

² See page 19, lines 17-23 of the specification.

³ See page 22, line 22 to page 23, line 2 of the specification.

from an external storage card mechanism integrally arranged on the case of the personal computer 500.

Tatebayashi also describes a headphone stereo 401 including a memory card reader 400 with a memory card slot 403, which reads an external storage card, and includes buttons 404a, 404b, 404c, and 404d located on the side of the headphone stereo 401. However, the headphone stereo 401 is not connected to the personal computer 500, and thus the buttons 404a, 404b, 404c, and 404d are not integrally arranged on the case of the personal computer 500. Further, Tatebayashi does not describe that when the headphone stereo 401 reads the external storage card, the processor of the personal computer is in an inactive state.

Thus, Tatebayashi does not teach or suggest that “said loading mechanism is configured to read said decoded data based on commands from an external storage card control mechanism integrally arranged on said case of said general-purpose computer, without control of a central processing unit, when said general-purpose computer is in an inactive state,” as in Applicants’ Claim 12.

Accordingly, Applicants’ amended independent Claim 12 (and all claims depending thereon) is believed to be non-obvious and patentable over Tatebayashi. Further, Applicants respectfully submit that Chan fails to cure any of the above-noted deficiencies of Tatebayashi.

Thus, Applicants respectfully request the rejection of Claims 12 and 14-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Tatebayashi in view of Chan be withdrawn.

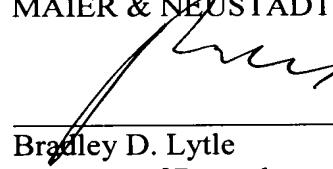
In order to vary the scope of protection recited in the claims, new Claims 20 and 21 are added. New Claims 20 and 21 find non-limiting support in the disclosure as originally

filed, for example at page 19, line 17 to page 20, line 4 of the specification. Therefore, the changes to the claims are not believed to raise a question of new matter.⁴

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, and in light of the above discussion, the pending claims as presented herewith are believed to be in condition for formal allowance, and an early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

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⁴ See MPEP 2163.06 stating that "information contained in any one of the specification, claims or drawings of the application as filed may be added to any other part of the application without introducing new matter."